

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
MAG REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
June 13, 2016
MAG Offices, Ironwood Room
302 N. 1st Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor W.J. “Jim” Lane, Scottsdale, Chair
Mayor Greg Stanton, Phoenix, Vice Chair
#Mayor Jackie Meck, Buckeye, Treasurer

#Mayor Gail Barney, Queen Creek
Mayor Michael LeVault, Youngtown
Mayor Mark Mitchell, Tempe
#Mayor Lana Mook, El Mirage

* Not present

Participated by video or telephone conference call

1. Call to Order

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Lane at 12:04 p.m. Mayor Barney, Mayor Meck and Mayor Mook participated by teleconference. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chair Lane informed the committee that MAG staff member Becky Kimbrough is recovering from an illness. On behalf of the committee, he wished Ms. Kimbrough a full and speedy recovery.

2. Call to the Audience

Chair Lane stated according to the MAG public comment process, members of the audience who wish to speak are requested to fill out the public comment cards. He stated that there is a three-minute time limit. Public comment is provided at the beginning of the meeting for items that are not on the agenda that are within the jurisdiction of MAG, or non-action agenda items that are on the agenda for discussion or information only. Chair Lane noted no public comment cards had been received.

3. Approval of Executive Committee Consent Agenda

Chair Lane noted prior to action on the consent agenda, members of the audience are provided an opportunity to comment on consent items that are being presented for action. Following the comment period, committee members may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda.

Chair Lane requested a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mayor LeVault moved to approve consent items 3A, 3B and 3C. Mayor Mitchell seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

3A. Approval of the May 16, 2016 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The Regional Council Executive Committee, by consent, approved the May 16, 2016 Executive Committee meeting minutes.

3B. Amendments to the FY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget and to the FY 2016 Cost Risk Analysis for the MAG Regional Freeway and Highway Program On-Call

The Regional Council Executive Committee, by consent, approved the amendments to the FY 2017 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to accept funding, and to the FY 2016 Cost Risk Analysis for the MAG Regional Freeway and Highway Program On-Call to include additional task orders to continue the scope of work and to increase the On-Call budget by \$380,000 to be funded from the MAG Regional Freeway and Highway Program.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, approved by the MAG Regional Council on May 27, 2015, included funding for the FY 2016 Cost Risk Analysis for the MAG Regional Freeway and Highway Program On-Call. The purpose of the FY 2016 Cost Risk Analysis is to refine the project costs and schedules for the MAG Regional Freeway and Highway Program at MAG. Funding for this amendment is being provided through ADOT from the consulting budget for the MAG Regional Freeway and Highway Program. Amendments are needed to the FY 2017 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to accept funding, and to the FY 2016 Cost Risk Analysis for the MAG Regional Freeway and Highway Program On-Call to include additional task orders to continue the scope of work, and to increase the On-Call budget by \$380,000 to be funded from the MAG Regional Freeway and Highway Program. This item was on the June 8, 2016 Management Committee agenda for recommended approval.

3C. Consultant Selection for Domestic Violence Risk Assessment

The Regional Council Executive Committee, by consent, approved the selection of Jill Messing, MSW, PhD to conduct the Domestic Violence Risk Assessment for an amount not to exceed \$25,000. The fiscal year (FY) 2016 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, approved by the MAG Regional Council in May 2015, included STOP Violence against Women grant funding in the amount of \$108,000 from the Governor's Office on Children Youth and Families to support the MAG Protocol Evaluation Project. The grant funding includes \$25,000 for a project consultant to conduct a risk assessment of current methods of domestic violence responses and interventions. The consultant project was added to the FY2016 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget in February, 2016. A request for consultant assistance was issued on March 3, 2016 and no submissions were received. A second request was issued on March 28, 2016, and MAG received two proposals from teams led by Jill Messing, MSW, PhD, and HDR Engineering Inc. A multi-agency evaluation team met on May 5, 2016 to evaluate the proposals, and unanimously recommended to MAG the selection of Jill Messing, MSW, PhD. Staff worked with the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council regarding this project.

4. Update on Consultant Services for the Statewide Tourism and Shopping Initiative

Chair Lane welcomed former Congressman Jim Kolbe to the meeting via teleconference and Steven Bloch in person, both from Capitol Strategies, to update the committee on the team's efforts to pass the Statewide Tourism and Shopping Initiative or extension of the Border Crossing Card (BCC) as it is also known. Mr. Bloch gave members a recap of the status of the effort. He said the team began by determining which of the two options was the best way to proceed, through either rulemaking or legislation and determined that rulemaking was the best way to proceed. Mr. Bloch stated the rulemaking process begins through a congressional request of the Customs and Border Protection Agency and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). He said his team began working with the Arizona Congressional Delegation to earn its support and worked with MAG staff to draft a letter for the Delegation to sign and submit to Congress.

Mr. Bloch noted the team had gotten verbal commitments from a bipartisan majority of the Delegation, with six of 11 members pledging to support the effort. Mr. Bloch said the additional five members of the delegation remain undecided at this time. He stated a letter will be sent to DHS by the end of the month, after which the team anticipates it will take a couple of months time for the agency to respond to Congress. Mr. Bloch said during that time, the team will work with individuals close to the Obama Administration to help weigh in on the importance of the initiative.

Mr. Bloch thanked the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry for its support in Washington, D.C. last week. He told the committee that members of the Chamber spoke to members of the Congressional Delegation about the importance of passing the initiative and submitted a letter of support. Mr. Bloch stated he is unsure if the recent terror attack in Florida will have an impact on efforts to get further Delegation support. He reminded the committee that Border Crossing Cards are the most secure method of vetting visa applicants from Mexico.

Congressman Kolbe addressed the committee regarding the remaining five members of the Congressional Delegation that have not committed to supporting the initiative. He said the team has gotten questions and feedback from members and staff and has done its best to respond to each of them to alleviate concerns.

Mayor Mitchell said he and Chair Lane recently attended a luncheon for the Valley Hotel and Resort Association that addressed the importance of tourism to Arizona. He asked Capitol Strategies if it would be helpful for the Mayors to work with Valley Hotel and Resort Association leaders in getting out letters of support or contacting members of the Delegation who have not yet given verbal commitments of support. Congressman Kolbe answered that it would be helpful. Mr. Bloch said it would be good for the undecided members to hear from anyone in their district who supports the initiative.

Mr. Bloch noted there is a fair amount of misinformation about the Border Crossing Cards. He said he spent weeks explaining statistics about overstays, and those types of concerns may be what is holding undecided Delegation members back. He reminded the committee that the extension does nothing to weaken Arizona's security position at the border as there would be no change in security, vetting or the application process from the current process. Mr. Bloch said it would be helpful for more tourism officials in the state to weigh in on this discussion.

Mayor Mitchell suggested additional outreach to communities may be advantageous, and noted

it may be helpful in convincing Congressman David Schweikert, Senator Jeff Flake and Senator John McCain to sign on to the initiative.

Mayor Stanton asked about the rule making process and how we get to the final answer. Mr. Bloch said the last expansion of the border crossing was done when New Mexico expanded its area from 25 miles to 55 miles, and it took almost a year to go through the full rulemaking process once the official notice for the process was issued. He noted it is safe to assume it will be a similar process and timeline for the Arizona initiative.

Chair Lane asked if some of the resistance to the initiative is in regard to what type of enforcement there would be at the border. Mr. Bloch said there is no checkpoint at the current 75 mile boundary line so if someone is going to come to our country to do harm they are not going to be stopped by an invisible border line. He stated the Customs and Border Protection Agency is on record saying that BCCs increase security, cost no money to the federal government, and allow the Agency to free up resources it can devote to real security concerns.

Chair Lane thanked Congressman Kolbe and Mr. Bloch for their update.

5. Update on Ari-Son Megaregion Initiative

MAG Staff Alana Langdon updated the committee on the Ari-Son Megaregion initiative. She said during the 2nd Binational Forum, which took place in Nogales, Sonora in April 2014, mayors representing Arizona and Sonora signed a partnering agreement to establish the Ari-Son Megaregion. Ms. Langdon explained the purpose of the initiative is to provide a statewide organizing framework for regions in Arizona and Sonora to engage, collaborate and advocate as a global megaregion with state, federal and business entities invited to participate as appropriate. She said potential topics for engagement include public administration, best practices, transportation and border infrastructure, economic development cooperation, commerce and trade and tourism.

Ms. Langdon stated at the August 2014 League of Arizona Cities and Towns Annual Conference, a commemoration of Binational Local Cooperation was signed. She said it was the first time mayors from Sonora were recognized at a League conference. Ms. Langdon noted due to local and state elections in Sonora, Mexico, work on the Ari-Son Megaregion was temporarily put on hold. She said Sonoran local elected officials are now in office and MAG has reached out to their staff to begin discussions on the Ari-Son Megaregion. Ms. Langdon commented during a recent trip to Hermosillo, the new leadership of the Commission Sonora Arizona expressed an interest in developing stronger relationships between the mayors of Sonora and mayors of Arizona. She said Ari-Son can help facilitate relationship building between the two groups. Ms. Langdon shared that today, Arizona and Sonora enjoy nine sister city relationships and one sister region relationship.

Ms. Langdon noted that MAG has been in discussions with the League of Arizona Cities and Towns regarding the creation of an affiliate group for Ari-Son, and providing a secured venue to conduct ongoing business among local leaders from Arizona and Sonora.

6. Update on Legal Claims Related to 9-1-1 System

The National Association of the Deaf and a number of other plaintiffs have submitted a suit against the State of Arizona, Maricopa County, the Maricopa Association of Governments and the City of Surprise on issues related to 9-1-1 communications.

Mayor Stanton moved that the Executive Committee go into Executive Session to discuss matters relating to the 9-1-1 legal claims. Mayor LeVault seconded the motion and the meeting went into Executive Session at 12:27 p.m. The authority for such an executive session is A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) and (4). An overview of the nature of the suit was provided to members of the Executive Committee.

7. Possible Action on Legal Claims Related to 9-1-1 System

The Executive Committee reconvened the regular meeting at 1:17 p.m. without taking action regarding the legal claims related to the 9-1-1 system.

8. Request for Future Agenda Items

Chair Lane asked if there were any requests for future agenda items. There were none.

9. Comments from the Committee

Chair Lane asked if there were any comments from the committee. Mr. Smith informed the committee there would be no July meeting and the committee would meet next in August. He reminded members that this is Mayor LeVault's last meeting as a member of the committee and thanked him for serving honorably and for his service to the region.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Executive Committee adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

Chair

Secretary